

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/909,877

Applicant(s)

MATSUI, NORIAKI

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a request for RCE filed March 16, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-18, now renumbered 1-6, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/19/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


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1. All pending claims 13-18 are allowed. All claims are newly filed with the request for RCE. Claims 13 and 18 are independent.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 13 and 18 each require a high-speed processing mode in addition to a normal processing mode and a controller operating in either of the modes when an operation of reading an image of the original has been completed, the high-speed processing mode being a mode in which the controller sets energized electric power of the drive unit for moving the scanner unit at a minimum electric power without moving the scanner unit to the home position, and keeps the energized state of the drive unit for a predetermined period of time, and when the controller is instructed to start reading of the image of a succeeding original within the predetermined period of time, the controller performs the operation of reading the image of the succeeding original without performing shading compensation. This high-speed processing mode, in combination with other limitations of claims 13 or 18, is not taught by the prior art of record.

The closest prior art Kawahara Shinichi (Japanese Patent Number JP9062064), cited by Applicant in the Disclosure Statement filed January 19, 2005, discloses a scanner and eliminating loss of time by moving and stopping the scanner on a position other than the home position in a case the scanner **is not operated for a specified time** after the scanner is stopped on the home position. This feature is opposite to the high-speed processing mode as defined in claims 13 and 18 of Applicant's application because in the high-speed processing mode, the scanner unit is not moved to the home

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position when reading of the succeeding original **is within the predetermined period of time** during which the drive unit for driving the scanner unit is powered at the minimum electric power.

Claims 14-17 depending on claim 13 are allowable for the reason given for claim 13.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takeuchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,944) discloses an image-scanning device having a controller for moving the scanning carriage to a certain position depending on whether a document is present, thereby reducing the time required before document scanning.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
June 27, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheukfan Lee', with a stylized flourish above the name.